

June 19, 2014

Dear Teachers,

I hope you are having a wonderful last week of school. I'm writing to provide you with a very important update about how our move to the PARCC next year (to replace the DC CAS) will affect IMPACT.

As you know, teachers in tested grades and subjects currently have 35% of their IMPACT scores tied to the performance of their students on the DC CAS. We use a "value-added" measure to do this, whereby we compare the learning trajectory that students are on with how they actually perform in a particular teacher's class. To calculate value-added scores, we need test data from before *and* after a student was with a particular teacher. Given this, many of you have naturally asked if we would be able to calculate value-added scores next year, when the "before" data will come from the DC CAS, but the "after" data will come from the PARCC.

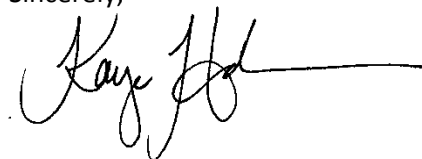
Though it is possible to calculate value-added scores with two different assessments, we have decided not to include these scores in IMPACT next year. We made this decision because there are always unexpected complications when a new assessment is adopted, which have the potential to cause a delay in when we would be able to provide final IMPACT scores. We of course want to avoid this so that you have clarity about your IMPACT ratings on a reasonable timeline.

This means that, for next year only, all Group 1 teachers will be treated like Group 2 teachers (no value-added). We remain deeply committed to value-added measurement, and will return to it for the 2015-16 school year.

If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to reach out to the IMPACT helpline. We want to make sure you have all the information you need on this very important topic.

Thank you so much for all that you do, each and every day, on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,



Kaya Henderson